

Appl. No. 10/013,078
Amdt. dated January 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice.

1-4 (cancelled)

5. (previously presented): A method of detecting misappropriation of goods in a self-checkout lane in a store, the self-checkout lane having an incoming goods path and a goods collection zone, and goods being passed, in service, from the incoming goods path into the goods collection zone; the incoming goods path including a product scanner electrically coupled to a processor, and the goods collection zone including a weighing scale electrically coupled to the processor; the method being performed by a processor and comprising the steps:

- (a) receiving input from the product scanner identifying goods introduced by a customer into the incoming goods path;
- (b) controlling one or more barriers so as to restrict access by a customer to the goods collection zone during introduction of goods into the incoming goods path and introduction of goods into the goods collection zone;
- (c) calculating, by referring to a record of product weights, a total weight value representative of the total weight of the goods introduced into the incoming goods path;
- (d) receiving input from the weighing scale specifying the total weight of the goods once received in the goods collection zone; and

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(e) comparing the said total weight value with the said total weight of the goods and calculating a discrepancy between the said weights; and

(f) if the calculated discrepancy exceeds a predetermined value, inhibiting conclusion of a transaction for purchase of goods introduced into the incoming goods path and assembled in the goods collection zone and continuing to control the one or more barriers so as to restrict access to the goods collection zone until the discrepancy is resolved and the transaction is concluded.

6. (previously presented): A method of detecting misappropriation of goods as claimed in claim 5 wherein, further comprising:

notifying store personnel or operating an alarm if the calculated discrepancy is greater than the predetermined value.